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ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

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May 18, 2004

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA,  
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## KEEP SCIENCE OUT OF THE “POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL SHREDDER”

**\*Vote for the Waxman-Tierney Amendment to H.R. 2432\***

Dear Colleague:

Our nation's leading newspapers have reported a dangerous pattern of political interference with science in the regulatory process. I urge you to support the creation of an independent commission to investigate this pattern and to protect scientific integrity. **Please vote today for the Waxman-Tierney Amendment to H.R. 2432 to establish a commission on the politicization of science.**

From global warming to health disparities, from mercury pollution to lead poisoning, U.S. newspapers have called attention to the misuse of science by the Bush Administration across a range of issues. For example:

- The *New York Times* editorialized that “[t]he Administration belittled, misrepresented, altered or quashed multiple reports suggesting a clear link between greenhouse gas emissions and the burning of fossil fuels like coal and oil.” (2/23/2004)
- On the political censoring of a report on healthcare disparities, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* concluded that “[t]o paraphrase R&B legend Sam Cooke, top aides in the Bush administration don’t know much about biology — or any other sciences, for that matter. What they do know is politics, and their amateurish experiments at mixing those unrelated disciplines could have disastrous consequences for the American public.” (1/20/2004)
- The *Chattanooga Times Free Press* wrote that “the Bush Administration has elevated its political agenda, ideology and vested interests over substantive scientific concerns about the environmental and health consequences of its policies.” (2/23/2004)

(over)

- Citing the manipulation of data on caribou in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the firing of qualified experts from a lead poisoning advisory committee, the *Boston Globe* concluded that “[a]t a time when so many issues are grounded in laboratory or field work, this corrupting of scientific evidence misinforms lawmakers and the public and could make scientists unwilling to work for the government.” (8/18/2003)
- The *Philadelphia Inquirer* concluded that “the Bush administration is risking public trust in vital government agencies by putting scientific findings through a political and ideological shredder.” (8/27/2003)
- The *Kansas City Star* declared that “[i]t’s time for a thorough review.” (2/20/2004)

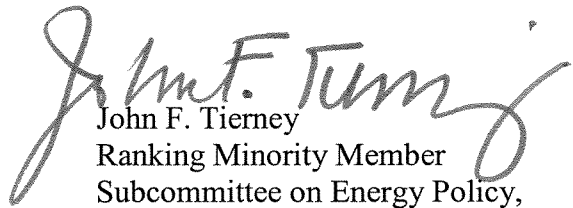
These serious concerns deserve a serious response. I urge you to vote for the Waxman-Tierney Amendment to H.R. 2432 to establish an independent commission on the politicization of science in the regulatory process.

For more information, please contact Josh Sharfstein on the minority staff of the Government Reform Committee at (202) 225-5420.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman  
Ranking Minority Member



John F. Tierney  
Ranking Minority Member  
Subcommittee on Energy Policy,  
Natural Resources and Regulatory  
Affairs